GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4859
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015
DEVELOPMENT OF HANDLOOM INDUSTRY
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for development of handloom industry in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for development of muga silk industry in Assam;

(c) whether the Government has proposed to provide assistance for the development of said industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a): The Government of India through Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles is implementing following schemes during 12th Plan for development of handlooms and welfare of weavers:

1. National Handloom Development Programme
2. Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
3. Yarn Supply Scheme
4. Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme

(b): The Government of India through Central Silk Board (CSB), Ministry of Textiles has taken necessary steps to boost the production of Muga Silk in the country, including Assam, which is a major Muga silk producing State. Some of the steps taken are as follows:-

1) Established Regional Office of CSB at Guwahati to coordinate sericulture development activities with State and other agencies in Assam and NE Region.

2) Established Regional Muga Research Station at Boko to provide R&D and extension support for Muga sericulture.

3) Regional Silk Technological Research Station, Khanapara, Guwahati is providing required R&D support in post cocoon activities.

4) A Muga Raw Material Bank (MRMB) is functioning at Sibsagar in Assam with 3 Sub- Depots, at Dhakukhana, Sualkuchi (Assam) and Coochbehar (W.B) with the objective of ensuring economic and fair price to the actual muga cocoon producers.

5) Under the Vanya Silk Market Promotion Programme of Catalytic Development Programme (CDP), CSB is developing various value added products of muga silk by preserving the traditional designs and motifs for better value addition.

6) Efforts are also made to use this expensive golden silk as surface ornamentation and replacement of zari etc. so as to ensure better value realisation for the producers.

7) R&D efforts are made at Central Muga Research Institute, Ladoigarh, Jorhat to tackle some of the inherent problems of muga silk like low fecundity, seed production during unfavourable season, long gestation period of host plant etc. The Research Institute has come out with technology packages to address these issues to improve the production and productivity.

8) During XII Plan, under CDP, support is provided to develop systematic muga plantation, seed production infrastructure, mountage facilities, establishment of improved reeling and spinning units etc. to improve the production.

(c) & (d): The assistance provided by the Government of India through Central Silk Board (CSB) under its Programmes during the first three years of XII Plan as indicated above are also proposed to be continued during the remaining XII Plan period with certain modifications. The CDP has now been categorized as Central Sector Scheme and proposed to be implemented through CSBs Research Institutes and nested units for development of sericulture, including Muga Silk industry.